



**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

News Release No. 00-38

Date:
August 17, 2000

Contact:
Dutch Meier

Phone: (509) 527-7020

Corps closes Swallows Beach due to high e. coli counts

Clarkston, Wash., -- The swim beach at Swallows Park has been closed indefinitely to public use due to high concentrations of e. coli bacteria in the water, according to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials at the Corps' Natural Resources Management Office here.

"We are concerned for the safety and health of our visitors and will close the beach until levels decrease," said Charles Craddock, park manager here. "We have taken this action after recent test results received from Anatek Labs in Moscow, showed increased numbers of E. coli bacteria in Swallows Park samples."

Tests taken Aug. 9 at Swallows Park beach revealed E. coli counts of 460 per each 100 milliliters of sample. That figure is up from 30 per 100 ml. in samples taken one week before. The beach will reopen when it has been determined that bacteria counts have returned to safe levels.

"For health and safety reasons, we are urging people not to swim or play in the water at Swallows Park beach. The beach will not be physically blocked, however, signs have been posted indicating that it is not safe to swim in the area," said Dawn Wiedmeier, natural resources manager here.

For current information about beach availability and up-to-date water quality conditions, call the Corps' Resources Management Office in Clarkston at (509) 751-0240.

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